

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-44 canceled.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): A keyboard unit comprising: a plurality of keys surrounding a center region and operable singly and chordally by a single finger- said keys arranged in an array extending in two mutually transverse directions and adapted to be operable by a single finger with a playing area of maximum diameter 1.5 cm so that the single finger can operate a plurality of at least three of said keys together.

Claim 46 (Canceled).

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): A keyboard unit comprising a group of keys arranged about a center in an array extending in two mutually transverse directions and adapted to be operable by a single finger with a playing area of maximum diameter 1.5 cm so that the single finger can reach and operate a plurality of at least three of said keys singly or in combinations of two or more thereof without moving the finger more than a maximum distance of 0.5 cm.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The keyboard unit as claimed in claim ~~45~~ 46, in which each said maximum diameter is 1 cm.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The keyboard unit as claimed in claim 47, in which said maximum distance is 0.3 cm.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): A unit as claimed in claim 45, in which the keys are connected and configured to selectively operate by a single touch ~~selectively~~ the twelve semitone notes of an octave of ~~the~~ a musical scale.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): A unit as claimed in claim 45, wherein said plurality of keys comprise a center key.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): A unit as claimed in claim 45, wherein said keys are arranged for chordal operation of a surrounding key, or an adjacent chordal pair of surrounding keys, together with ~~the~~ a center key to operate a note a semitone higher than without the center key.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): A unit as claimed in claim 45, wherein said keys are arranged for chordal operation of a surrounding key, or an adjacent chordal pair of surrounding keys, together with ~~the~~ a center key to operate a note a semitone lower than without the center key.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): A keyboard as claimed in claim 45, comprising a plurality of spaced apart key units, ~~each as claimed in claim 45.~~

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): A keyboard as claimed in claim 54, comprising a plurality of said key units arranged to be operable by one and the same finger ~~finger~~.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): A keyboard as claimed in claim 55, comprising a plurality of ~~said~~ groups of said key units arranged to be operable by respective fingers.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): A keyboard as claimed in claim 56, wherein said key units of each ~~said~~ finger ~~group~~ are arranged in a column and wherein said columns are approximately parallel to facilitate simultaneous playing operation of some or all of the groups by a single hand.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The keyboard as in claim 54, wherein said keyboard is in the form of a musical instrument.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): The keyboard as in claim 54, wherein said keys are spaced along a back of the guitar neck for operation by the thumb of a hand that does the guitar fingering.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): A keyboard comprising keyboard units as claimed in claim 45, wherein said keys are connected and configured to selectively operate alphanumeric characters-~~electively~~s.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): A keyboard as claimed in claim 60, wherein said keys are connected ~~for said groups~~ and configured to be operable simultaneously by respective fingers to operate a selected ordered set of alphanumeric characters.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): The keyboard unit as claimed in claim 45, wherein said keys are connected and configured to selectively operate lights.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): A keyboard comprising keyboard units as in claim 45, wherein said keys are formed as a mosaic keyboard.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): A keyboard comprising keyboard units as in claim 45, wherein said keys are arranged around a center region so that they are operable by a single finger.